

II. CLAIMS

1-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for the remote monitoring and parameterization of facilities, in particular heating installations, comprising:

a system unit suited for data transmission according to a first data transmission protocol;

at least one facility suited for the data transmission according to a second data transmission protocol;

a protocol converter for converting received data;

a bus system for the data transmission according to the second data transmission protocol, to which the facilities and the protocol converter are connected; and

a controllable data transmission device which makes possible the data transmission according to the first data transmission protocol between the system unit and the protocol converter;

wherein the protocol converter:

converts data of the first data transmission protocol into data of the second data transmission protocol and data of

the second data transmission protocol into data of the first data transmission protocol;

~~compromises~~ comprises a memory for storing data;

retrieves predetermined data from the facilities at given time intervals; and

stores the data received from the facilities in a memory, wherein:

after the receipt of the predetermined data or after request by the system unit, the protocol converter:

controls the data transmission device in order to establish a connection to the system unit;

transmits the stored data by means of the data transmission device to the system unit; and

induces the data transmission device to disconnect the connection to the system unit.

21. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the facilities connectable to the bus system are heating, air conditioning and/or cooling installations and/or measuring or control devices for operating heating, air conditioning and/or cooling installations.

22. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the bus system is a house field bus and/or the second data transmission protocol is a LON protocol.

23. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the first data transmission protocol is a protocol on the basis of the Internet Protocol (IP), in particular the Simple Network Management Protocol SNMP, the Hypertext Transport Protocol http, the Transport Protocol TCP or the LonWorks Network Protocol.

24. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the protocol converter sends data received from the system unit and destined for a certain facility via the bus system to the corresponding facility.

25. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the protocol converter activates a predetermined connection when a trouble report or maintenance report is received from one of the facilities.

26. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the protocol converter sends a predetermined message, in particular a facsimile, a voice message, an e-mail, or an SMS message, when a trouble report or maintenance report is received from one of the facilities and the connection to the system unit is troubled.

27. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the connection between the protocol converter and the system unit is established via an analog and/or a digital telephone line and comprises an analog modem, a GSM modem or an ISDN modem.

28. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the connection between the protocol converter and the system unit is established via a call-back procedure.

29. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the system unit establishes a connection to the protocol converter at given time intervals and retrieves predetermined data which were previously retrieved from the facilities and buffered by the protocol converter.

30. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the system unit establishes a connection to the protocol converter and/or sends data for a certain facility to the protocol converter and/or receives data of a certain facility from the protocol converter.

31. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the system unit comprises a database which contains the configuration, commissioning, maintenance and/or operation data of facilities and/or of the protocol converter, in particular trouble reports and maintenance reports.

32. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the system unit comprises an internet server and/or WAP server for the access to the database.

33. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the system unit sends a predetermined message, in particular a facsimile, a voice message, an e-mail or an SMS message, when a certain trouble report or maintenance report is received from one of the facilities.

34. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 20, wherein several system units establish connections to protocol converters and/or receive data from the protocol converters and/or send data to the protocol converters, the system units being connectable to each other via the internet.

35. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 34, wherein one of the system units comprises a central database to which the other system units report data changes and/or with which the databases of the other system units are collated.

36. (Previously Presented) Method for the remote monitoring and parameterization of facilities, in particular heating installations, comprising:

data transmission according to a first data transmission protocol between a system unit and a protocol converter;

data transmission according to a second data transmission protocol by at least one facility;

conversion of received data by a protocol converter;

data transmission according to the second data transmission protocol by a bus system to which the facilities and the protocol converter are connected; and

data transmission according to the first data transmission protocol between the system unit and the protocol converter by a controllable data transmission device; wherein the protocol converter:

converts data of the first data transmission protocol into data of the second data transmission protocol and data of the second data protocol into data of the first data transmission protocol;

stores data in a memory;

retrieves predetermined data from the facilities at given time intervals;

stores the data received from the facilities in the memory; and

after receipt of the predetermined data or after request by the system unit, the protocol converter:

controls the data transmission device in order to establish a connection to the system unit;

transmits the stored data by means of the data transmission device to the system unit; and

induces the data transmission device to disconnect the connection to the system unit.